



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

|                              |                         |                                 |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| APPLICATION NO.<br>117,308-1 | FILING DATE<br>03/08/00 | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR<br>HARDEEN | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.<br>3764-2 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|

NIXON & VANDERHYE  
8TH FLOOR  
1100 NORTH GLEBE ROAD  
ARLINGTON VA 22201-4714

NM11/0509

|                     |
|---------------------|
| EXAMINER<br>FORD, J |
|---------------------|

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| ART UNIT<br>1624 | PAPER NUMBER<br>#8 |
|------------------|--------------------|

05/09/01

DATE MAILED:

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

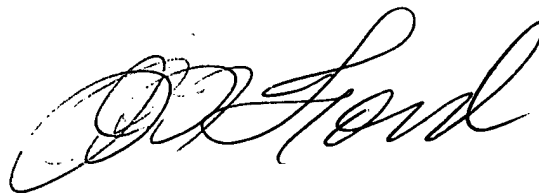
Art Unit: 1624

The Office action of Dec. 20, 2000, was vacated on March 15, of 2001, at the request of applicants' attorney, Len Mitchard,.

The examination group received a form 903 from PCT Branch on Sept. 21, 2000 requesting an immediate examination of this application, which was done.

Applicants' attorney contacted the Examiner, and indicated that it was his clients request to differ examination. On inspection of the file, a form 1390 was found that requested a delay in examination at the national stage.

Therefore, the Office action of Dec. 20, 2000, was vacated on March 15, 2001.



JOHN M. FORD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1624 - ART UNIT 1624